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Celebrating Renee Robinson



A program titled “Celebrating Renee Robinson” at New York City Center Theater on Sunday evening feted the dancer, who is retiring from Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

“Renee Robinson gave the farewell performance every dancer would love to give,” writes Alastair Macaulay. “After more than 30 years of professional dancing, she was still a compelling image of style, moving with verve and élan at the heart of two of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s classic works.”

Credit: Andrea Mohin/The New York Times



“Like thousands, I shall miss her glamour, the proud carriage of her beautiful head with its memorable cheekbones and jawline, and the bright light in her eyes.”

Ms. Robinson and Matthew Rushing in “Night Creature.”

Credit: Andrea Mohin/The New York Times



“The figure-eight twists of her hips at the start of ‘Night Creature’ on Sunday could have drawn any newcomer at once into the idiom with which this work opens.”

Credit: Andrea Mohin/The New York Times



“The evening closed with Ailey’s ‘Revelations.’ There she was once again in white wielding the white umbrella (‘Wade in the Water’).”

Credit: Andrea Mohin/The New York Times



“At the end flowers were thrown from the audience, but only two bouquets were presented onstage. Robert Battle, left, presented one; Judith Jamison, right, the company’s second director, presented the other.”

“Holding one of those bouquets in each hand, Ms. Robinson, beaming her brightest, took a solo curtain call as the audience stood and cheered.”

Credit: Andrea Mohin/The New York Times



“She may make some final appearances with the company in Washington, her hometown, in 2013; but for most of us an era now opens up without her.”

Ms. Robinson in her finale on Sunday, “Rocka My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham,” part of “Revelations.”

Credit: Andrea Mohin/The New York Times